

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3. By this amendment, Applicants amend claim 1. With entry of this amendment, claims 1-3 are pending and under consideration.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,432,550 to Ohbayashi et al. ("Ohbayashi"). Office Action at page 2.

Specifically, the Examiner stated:

the reference discloses values for basis weight and the Cobb value that fall within applicants' range recited at the end of claim 1.

Office Action at page 2. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants amend claim 1 to recite:

[a]n ink-jet recording sheet comprising a paper support coated with a polyolefin resin on both sides of the paper support, the polyolefin resin-coated paper support having thereon a porous ink receptive layer containing a hydrophilic polymer, wherein the paper support has a ratio of a Cobb value to a basis weight of between 0.05 : 1 and 0.2 : 1.

In other words, the present invention claims the *Cobb value of the paper support* (i.e., without the polyolefin resin coating) rather than the Cobb value of the combination of the paper support coated with polyolefin resin.

Ohbayashi discloses an ink-jet recording sheet comprising a support. In particular, as the Examiner noted, Ohbayashi teaches "the support is a support having a

Kobb-water-permeability of not more than 5 g/m^2 .” See, e.g., Ohbayashi at column 4, lines 61-62. However, at best, the “support” referred to in the quoted passage from Ohbayashi refers to the combination of the paper support coated with resin rather than the paper support without the resin coating.

At best, Ohbayashi, in TABLE 2-1, discloses the Kobb-water-permeability of recording papers 1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A. In particular, recording papers 1A, 2A, and 3A refer to the paper only, but, in contrast to the recitation of claim 1 of the present invention, nowhere does Ohbayashi disclose these papers coated with a polyolefin resin. In addition, regarding recording paper 4A, Ohbayashi discloses paper 4A laminated with polyethylene but the Kobb-water-permeability disclosed is that of the combination of the paper coated with the resin. In other words, nowhere does Ohbayashi disclose the Cobb value of recording paper 4A itself without the polyethylene resin.

Furthermore, Ohbayashi discloses a Kobb-water-permeability of recording paper 4A as 0 g/m^2 . As one can readily understand, it is impossible for a Cobb value of 0 g/m^2 to fall within the range recited in claim 1 (i.e., between $0.05 : 1$ and $0.2 : 1$). Therefore, in summary, nowhere does Ohbayashi disclose “the paper support has a ratio of a Cobb value to a basis weight of between $0.05 : 1$ and $0.2 : 1$ ” when the paper support is “coated with a polyolefin resin on both sides of the paper support,” as recited by claim 1.

In conclusion, Ohbayashi does not disclose the Kobb-water-permeability of the paper without plastic resin when the paper is ultimately laminated with plastic resin. Accordingly, Ohbayashi does not teach or suggest “[a]n ink-jet recording sheet comprising a paper support coated with a polyolefin resin on both sides of the paper

support . . . wherein the paper support has a ratio of a Cobb value to a basis weight of between 0.05 : 1 and 0.2 : 1 . . .,” as recited by claim 1.

Claims 2 and 3 directly depend from claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner’s rejection of claims 2 and 3 should be withdrawn for at least the same reasons as for claim 1.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohbayashi in view of either of Japanese Patent Application Publication 2001-096,898A to Ashida et al. (“Ashida”) or United States Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0186020 to Kasahara et al. (“Kasahara”). Office Action at pages 2-3. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As mentioned above, the Cobb-water-permeability of Ohbayashi is not same as the Cobb value recited in claim 1 of the instant invention. Further, also as discussed above, Ohbayashi does not teach or suggest “[a]n ink-jet recording sheet comprising a paper support coated with a polyolefin resin on both sides of the paper support . . . wherein the paper support has a ratio of a Cobb value to a basis weight of between 0.05 : 1 and 0.2 : 1 . . .,” as recited by claim 1.

In addition, nowhere does Ashida or Kasahara teach or suggest Cobb values at all. Thus, there is no suggestion or motivation to combine Ohbayashi with Ashida or Kasahara. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Ohbayashi with Ashida or Kasahara in order to

provide a ratio of a Cobb value to a basis weight of between 0.05 : 1 and 0.2 : 1, as recited by claim 1.

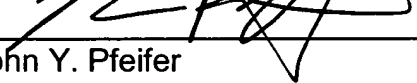
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extension of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 21, 2005

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